

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

175

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 05

, 2025

RE: H.B. No. 625
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 625 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for a Nationally Certified School Psychologist Incentive Program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Primary Care Association; Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists; and four individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that school psychologists are integral to meeting students' mental, emotional, and social needs, as well as helping students succeed in the school environment. The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of one school psychologist to every five hundred students; however, many school psychologists in the State have more than fifteen hundred students.

2025-1265 HB625 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee further finds that the establishment of a Nationally Certified School Psychologist Incentive Program will assist the State in addressing the critical shortage of accredited school psychologists in public schools and provide students with access to professionals who engage in high quality, evidence-based practices.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the amounts awarded to unspecified amounts; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000.

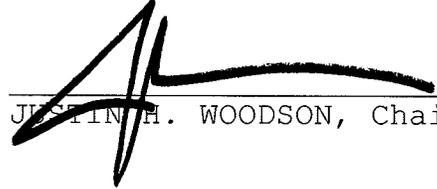
Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider establishing an award amount of:

- (1) \$5,000 per year to each nationally certified school psychologist who maintains a current national certification;
- (2) Up to \$500, depending on the certification fee structure, upon completing all components of the Nationally Certified School Psychologist credential; and
- (3) An additional \$5,000 bonus per year to each school psychologist employed by the Department of Education who maintains a current Nationally Certified School Psychologist certificate and provides school psychology services to children in a hard-to-fill area as defined by the Department.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 625, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 625, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,



JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Education

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 625	Committee Referral: EDN, CPC, FIN	Date: 1/30/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EDN Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WOODSON, Justin H. (C)	/			
2. LA CHICA, Trish (VC)	/			
3. AMATO, Terez	/			
4. EVSLIN, Luke A.	/			
5. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya	/			
6. KAPELA, Jeanne				X
7. KILA, Darius K.	/			
8. OLDS, Ikaika	/			
9. SAYAMA, Jackson D.	/			
10. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	/			
11. SOUZA, Kanani	/			
TOTAL (11)	10			1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>Trish La Chica</u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				